

*Macropoma*, adhere so firmly to the chalk, that, to display the external surface of their scales, the surrounding stone must be removed piecemeal, in the manner described for the Chalk crustaceans (see p. 567.). The collector who sees the splendid Chalk fishes in the British Museum, and learns that they were found in the Sussex Chalk, will be grievously disappointed, upon visiting the quarries from which they were obtained, if he expects to discover specimens with any considerable portion of the scales, or body, exposed. It was many years before the quarry-men acquired the tact they now possess, of detecting, from very slight evidence, the presence of an Ichthyolite in a block of chalk.\*

The fossil *Smelt* (see p. 664.), which may be considered as one of the most extraordinary of the Chalk fishes found in England, affords an excellent illustration of the mode of developing the Ichthyolites of this formation. This interesting fossil is delineated on a small scale, in three different states, in

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\* Patches of scales, which the quarry-men called "*bran*," and detached shark's teeth "*birds' beaks*," and teeth of *Ptychodus*, "*slugs*," were the only remains of fishes obtained from the workmen around Lewes, for several years after I had commenced collecting the fossils of the South Downs; and it was only by stimulating their activity by liberal rewards, that they could be induced to persevere till they had acquired the art of detecting entire specimens. I believe my first Lewes Ichthyolite cost me its weight in gold, so much had been previously expended on insulated scales and teeth.